

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-37, and 40-52 are pending in this application. Claims 38 and 39 have been cancelled.

Sole Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) – Tanishima

Claims 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanishima (U. S. Patent 5,953,045).

As will be seen by the above amendments, claims 38 and 39 have been cancelled. Accordingly, since all of the remaining claims, i.e., claims 1-3, 5-37, and 40-52 have been indicated by the Examiner as allowed, the application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

Since the cancellation of claims 38 and 39 places the application in condition for allowance, entry of the present Amendment After Final Action is believed to be proper and is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

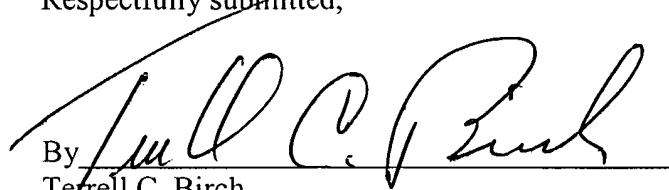
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No.

48,222) at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


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